



## NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 29, 2012

Contact: David Boyd, BLM Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 876-9008

### **Fee program begins this weekend at the North Fruita Desert to improve visitor services**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – As part of an effort to improve visitor services and facilities, the Bureau of Land Management will be charging a \$10 fee per night to camp at the popular North Fruita Desert Campground beginning Saturday, Sept. 1.

All the revenue generated will stay on-site and be applied directly toward improving camping services and facilities at the 40-acre camping area, including a campground host during peak season.

“We’re beginning this campground fee after a lengthy planning effort with multiple public comment periods,” said Grand Junction BLM Assistant Field Manager Michelle Bailey. “We’ve received support from the people who use this campground, who want to see the greater services we will be able to provide as a result.”

There will be a self-pay fee station located at the campground entrance. Camping is on a first-come, first-served basis and campsites cannot be reserved in advance. Dispersed camping is allowed outside of the mountain bike trail system but requires the use of a portable toilet system and portable fire pan.

The campground is located approximately 12 miles north of Fruita along 18 Road inside the North Fruita Desert Special Recreation Management Area. The campground includes 35 campsites, all with fire rings and picnic tables. While vault toilets are located within walking distance of each campsite, no water, electricity, shade shelters or garbage services are available.

The North Fruita Desert SRMA includes 72,000 acres with 250 miles of designated recreation routes. The SRMA includes motorized, mechanized, quiet use and a designated open off-highway vehicle area.

For more information, contact Chris Pipkin, BLM outdoor recreation planner at (970) 244-3024.

###